

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00884 082041Z

64

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 /079 W

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O 082030Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2891

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 884

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SY, PFOR

SUBJ: ASAD PLEDGES JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL-
MILITARY COMMAND.

1. IN SPEECH DELIVERED MARCH 8 ON TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF BATH PARTY ACCESSION TO POWER, PRES ASAD MOVED PALESTINIAN
ISSUE FURTHER TO CENTER STAGE BY NEW PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH
JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMANDS.
ASAD STATED THAT HE WAS NOT OFFERING A SPECIFIC FORMULA,
BUT HIS IDEA WAS INDICATION OF EXTENT TO WHICH HE WAS
PREPARED TO GO IN SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN CAUSE, IF PALESTINIANS
SO DESIRED. HE STRESSED POINT THAT JOINT COMMANDS WERE
PROPOSED TO EXTEND UNTIL PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WERE SECURED.
"WHAT THIS MEANS IS CLEAR - WE ARE READY TO ESTABLISH ONE
POLITICAL COMMAND TO LEAD SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLICY, AND
ONE MILITARY COMMAND TO LEAD SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ARMED FORCES."

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2. IN OTHER PARTS OF SPEECH DEALING WITH THE ARAB-ISRAELI

DISPUTE, ASAD ASSERTED THAT SYRIA WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST PRESSURE FROM THE ENEMY AND "THOSE WHO STAND BEHIND HIM." HE ALSO CRITICIZED U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL, WHICH HAD LED ISRAEL TO IGNORE PEACE. HE MADE REFERENCE TO SYRIA'S MILITARY OPTION -- "THE NATION WHICH FOUGHT IN OCTOBER KNOWS THE ROAD TO ANOTHER OCTOBER" -- BUT EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA FAVORED A JUST PEACE, WHICH HE DEFINED AS A PEACE WITH NO OCCUPATION OF OTHER'S TERRITORY, NO DISPERSED PEOPLE, AND ONE WHICH SECURES PALESTINAIN RIGHTS. SYRIA, STATED ASAD, WOULD JOIN IN EVERY SINCERE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE PEACE.

3. SPEECH OTHERWISE WAS "STATE OF NATION" TYPE SUMMARY OF BA'TH LEADERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SPHERES, INCLUDING EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SYRIA.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ARMED FORCES, LIBERATION FRONTS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00884
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750082-0605
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750370/aaaackud.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by buchantr>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAD PLEDGES JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN POLITICAL- MILITARY COMMAND.
TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO, (ASAD, HAFIZ)
To: ASWAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006